

# Hudson County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report Summary

## Fact Sheet

*The Office of Cancer Control and Prevention of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction with a mandate from the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey and in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, has developed comprehensive cancer capacity and needs assessment reports for each county in the state. These reports are a result of initial implementation steps of the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP). The purpose of the reports is to identify the major cancer issues affecting each county and the county's available resources for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, as well as to offer recommendations for improvement. Each report was written by county evaluators from a county-level point of view.*

### County Demographic Profile

- **2000 Population:** 608,975
- **Median Age:** 33.6
- **Racial Composition:**
  - 56% White
  - 13% Black
  - 10% Asian
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - 40% Hispanic
- **Median Household Income:** \$40,293
- **% of residents  $\geq 25$  without high school diploma:** 29%
- **% of residents living below the poverty level:** 16%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 602.7 men and 425.4 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Hudson County, compared to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual death rate was 273.1 for men, and 176.6 for women in Hudson County, compared to the state rate of 261.1 for men and 181.6 for women. Thus, the county's male and female incidence rates are lower than the state rates: whereas, its male mortality rate is higher than the state's rate.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

### Overarching Issues

- **Access:** The principal cancer problem facing Hudson County is lack of access to cancer screening and oncology services, due to poverty, lack of insurance, underinsurance or being undocumented. This problem affects at least one third of the county's population and is a major factor in the county's relatively higher total and site specific cancer mortality rates in many age, gender, race and ethnic groups, compared to the corresponding state rates.
- **Resources:** While there are many dedicated services and facilities for cancer treatment offered throughout Hudson County, services appear to be fragmented at best.
- **School Health Education:** While it is standard practice for each school district to have a school health coordinator or curriculum development position, it is not known whether this is the case in all county school districts.
- **Advocacy:** There is no systemic advocacy effort being conducted on behalf of the cancer needs in Hudson County that are specifically concerned with the cancer burden.
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity:** The provision of widespread cancer specific nutrition programs generally does not appear to exist throughout Hudson County.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Hudson County does not have major pediatric cancer treatment services located within its borders.

# Hudson County & New Jersey

## 1996-2000 Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site

All Cancers	Incidence Rate <sup>1</sup>		Mortality Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Hudson County	NJ	Hudson County	NJ
Male	602.7	628.7	273.1	261.1
Female	425.4	453.7	176.6	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	121.2	138.5	31.2	31.3
Cervical, female	<b>13.4</b>	10.9	<b>4.2</b>	3.1
Colorectal, male	78.8	79.0	31.7	29.5
Colorectal, female	54.2	54.4	20.9	20.1
Lung, male	95.4	92.5	81.3	74.8
Lung, female	48.8	55.4	36.0	41.6
Melanoma, male	11.4	20.1	3.1	4.4
Melanoma, female	6.0	11.9	1.1	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	<b>17.9</b>	15.7	<b>5.8</b>	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	6.9	6.4	1.7	1.6
Prostate, male	178.7	194.3	34.1	32.9

Sources: <sup>1</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

<sup>2</sup> National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>)

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

A rate at least 10% higher than the corresponding state rate is shown in **bold italics**.

### County Recommendations

- Develop a Hudson County Cancer Control Plan based on the findings of the Hudson County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment and other pertinent information.
- Design and implement a large-scale, culturally sensitive outreach program to educate and motivate the county's medically underserved population, as well as all other residents and populations of focus, to adopt healthier life styles and, when appropriate, to obtain cancer screening services.
- Recruit members who are willing and able to address the cancer problems in Hudson County creatively and effectively for a first-rate, countywide, culturally sensitive, and proactive Cancer Coalition that will act as the county's cancer prevention task force
- Marshal the resources needed to execute a new, large scale, Hudson County, Cancer Prevention Program, including the resources necessary to follow-up and treat the increased volume of cancerous conditions that will be discovered by this new program.
- Organize existing ambulatory clinics and private physicians into a coordinated cancer prevention network that will execute this new, Hudson County, Cancer Prevention Program.
- Implement an outreach program and use it to increase the county's cancer screening rates for all county residents and most especially for those in the medically underserved population. Coordinate the care for those diagnosed with cancer or precancerous conditions.

### For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:  
[www.state.nj.us/health/ccp](http://www.state.nj.us/health/ccp)